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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Sat 7/16/2016 1:14:03 AM  
**Subject:** End of Day -- July 15, 2016

Have a great weekend and please pardon any formatting errors - I had some technical difficulties!

## MEDIA

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**DOJ issued the following release:** The U.S. and Navajo Nation Agree to Second Phase of Work to Address AUMs:— Today, in a settlement agreement with the Navajo Nation, the United States agreed to provide funding necessary to continue clean-up work at abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. <http://enewspf.com/2016/07/15/united-states-navajo-nation-agree-second-phase-work-address-abandoned-uranium-mines/>

**KSEE24/CBS47 Fresno:** Reporter Angela Greenwood had questions on how to navigate the [Safe Drinking Water Information System \(SDWIS\)](#). Setting up a time to talk to our SDWIS expert later week. She is especially interested in the Orange Center Elementary School and other systems around Fresno County. She might want to do a follow-up interview about the Lead and Copper Rule after going through the database. Sent her additional information and waiting to hear back on possible follow-up. OPEN. WTR. (v.) Soledad Calvino.

**KPIX-TV (CBS5):** Investigative producer Abigail Sterling is working on a follow up report about arsenic issues in Central Valley drinking water and specifically the drinking water problems in Kettleman City. She requested an on-camera interview to discuss the health effects language that comes from a template that EPA created for states to use, and is used in similar situations across the country. She also wants to discuss arsenic in drinking water in the nation. Referred to HQ. Monica will get back to her directly. WTR (v) CLOSED: Soledad Calvino /Michele Huitric/Monica Lee.

**The Stockton Record:** Reporter Alex Breitler is interested in any updates regarding the McCormick and

Baxter Superfund Site, since this year is the 25th anniversary of the closure of the old plant. He would also like to arrange a site visit if possible. Sent him summary of site and latest updates. Both EPA and DTSC agree that there really is nothing to see at this point as far as a tour. Referred him to DTSC for additional questions. CLOSED. SFUND. (v.) Soledad Calvino.

## WEB

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### Social Media:

**Climate Change/Children's Health** – Posted to our [Twitter](#) page about [Climate Change and the Health of Children](#).

### Web Updates:

**Air** – Continued to reorganize content on our [California Air Actions](#) pages.

## CONGRESSIONAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL

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**House & Senate:** The House and Senate stand in recess until after Labor Day and will return to session on September 6, 2016. Lawmakers are turning their attention toward this month's political conventions — and toward their own reelection races.

**Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Invitation Letters:** OCIR's Fran Eargle who is the Designated Federal Official for the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) has shared a draft agenda with Regional Congressional Liaisons of an upcoming July 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Local Government Advisory Committee meeting and a Regional Administrator's Panel Discussion that Alexis has confirmed her participation. Fran also shared a list of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) Members and Candidates. Invitation letters from the Administrator are going out this week, however, Members and Candidates will need to accept an appointment to the LGAC and SCAS, so until their acceptance, the final list will not be confirmed. The Region IX Members and Candidates who will be receiving letters from Administrator McCarthy include: **New Appointment-Candidates:** The Honorable Cynthia Koehler, Marin County Board of Directors, CA (Elected); The Honorable Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor, Chula Vista, CA (Elected); The Honorable David Bobzien, City Council, Reno, NV (Elected); and Mr. Scott Bouchie, Director, Sustainability, Mesa, AZ (Appointed). **Current Members:** The Honorable Ryan Sundberg, Commissioner, Humboldt County, CA (Elected).

**Congressional Outreach on Phase II Settlement Agreement with Navajo Nation:** At Superfund Division's request, Brent Maier shared information with Congressional Offices whose States/Districts include the Navajo Nation regarding today's U.S. Department of Justice announcement of the Phase II settlement agreement with the Navajo Nation and the United States to clean up abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

**Rep. Steve Knight (R-CA-25):** Brent Maier shared a PDF copy of a July 15, 2016 letter with Lisa Moulton, District Director and Brandon Eden, Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director in the Office of Congressman Steven Knight. EPA's letter was sent to Matthew Knudson, Assistant General Manager of the Palmdale Water District regarding a FY2010 earmark grant for a water main replacement. EPA had sent an earlier letter to Palmdale Water District on April 16, 2016.

**Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> - Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32):** Brent Maier has confirmed a call with the Congresswoman's staff to discuss the Quemetco facility in the City of Industry. Expected participants include Joseph Ciccone, Legislative Assistant and Joe Sheehy, Legislative Director in the Congresswoman's DC Office and potentially two District Office representatives along with Region IX's Chief of Staff Jessica Kao, Land Division's Tom Huetteman and Enforcement Division's Joel Jones and Doug McDaniel. A call is confirmed for Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am PT.

**Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> - Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA):** Brent Maier working with OCIR's Denis Borum has confirmed a call with Sen. Feinstein's DC staffer Alexis Segal for Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pmPT to discuss the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund Program. Expected Region IX participants include Water Division's Sam Ziegler, Paul Amato, Luisa Valiela, and Erica Yelensky.

**Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA):** OCIR's Cathy Davis received a request from a DC staffer for a briefing on how EPA is implementing aquifer exemption authority in light of the issues that have occurred in CA. Have shared this request with Water Division's Mike Montgomery and David Albright. Sen. Feinstein's staff notified OCIR's Cathy Davis that they are now looking to have the briefing for some time during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>. Brent Maier will keep Mike and David apprised of the scheduling of this briefing.

**Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA-24):** Brent Maier followed up with the Congresswoman's San Luis Obispo Field Representative Greg Haas to answer some questions he had regarding any planned outreach by EPA Region IX for the Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal. On a separate issue, Brent is working with our Air Division's Amy Zimpfer and others to set up a follow up call for some time during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Pismo Dunes and AQMD court order.

**Rep. Gregorio Sablan (CNMI):** A call was held today with managers/staff from our Pacific Islands Office, Enforcement Division, and Office of Regional Counsel with Rep. Sablan to discuss the current status of issues involving Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC). Brent Maier attempted to dial into this discussion, however, technical difficulties prevented connecting to the call.

**Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA-17):** Brent Maier is working with Land Division's Zoe Heller and Karen Irwin and Laurie Chong, Ph.D., AMS/AAAS Congressional Science & Technology Fellow in the Office of Congressman Michael M. Honda to finalize EPA's participation in a roundtable/workshop in Congressman Mike Honda's District in early to mid-August that highlights EPA's Waste Stream tool. Received word from Laurie Chong that they are now targeting Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> for the roundtable/workshop.

**Today – Sunday, July 17, 2016 - National Governors Association Annual Meeting:** The National Governors Association will convene their annual summer meeting July 14-17 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Twenty-eight governors are scheduled to attend as of now. Iowa Governor Branstad will host a session on "Feeding and Fueling the World," including a discussion on renewable energy. The Governors' Biofuel Coalition will also meet. OCIR Contact: Becky Cook-Shyovitz

#### **Legislative Action:**

**July 12, 2016 - Reported by Committee - [H.R. 2319: Electronic Message Preservation Act of 2015](#).** Last Action: Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote. Explanation: The committees assigned to this bill sent it to the House or Senate as a whole for consideration on July 12, 2016.

**July 12, 2016 - Reported by Committee - [H.R. 5709: To improve Federal employee compliance with Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes](#).** Last Action: Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote. Explanation: The committees assigned to this bill sent it to the House or Senate as a whole for consideration on July 12, 2016.

**July 13, 2016 - Reported by Committee - [S. 2902: Western Water Supply and Planning Enhancement Act of 2016](#).** Last Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably. Explanation: The committees assigned to this bill sent it to the House or Senate as a whole for consideration on July 13, 2016.

**July 13, 2016 - Bill Text - [H.R. 5658: TALENT Act of 2016](#).** This bill's text for status *Referred to Senate Committee* (Jul 13, 2016) is now available.

**July 13, 2016 – Introduced - [H.R. 5771: To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes](#).** Sponsor: [Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen \[R-FL27\]](#). This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and one other committee which will consider it before sending it to the House floor for consideration.

**July 13, 2016 – Introduced - [S. 3197: A bill to reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes](#).** Sponsor: [Sen. Charles "Chuck" Schumer \[D-NY\]](#). This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works which will consider it before sending it to the Senate floor for consideration.

#### **Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Intergovernmental Meetings:**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2016 - Water Infrastructure Financing Forum to Convene:** EPA's Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) continues to work with the Office of Water and the US Conference of Mayors in outreach to mayors who may be interested in participating in the upcoming July 19, 2016 forum entitled "Funding and Financing-Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Communities in Need" in Washington, DC. OIR Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon

**Wednesday, July 27, 2016 – EPA Regional Administrators' Panel with EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee's Agenda on July 28<sup>th</sup>:** Acting Regional Administrator Alexis Strauss has confirmed her participation on the RA Panel via video-conference for the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). This will be a one-hour opportunity for a meet and greet with time to briefly highlight some of the intergovernmental collaboration in Region IX and provide attendees with priorities for Region IX and extend an invitation to expand our partnership with local government.

**Tuesday – Thursday, July 26 – 28, 2016 - Urban Waters National Training Workshop to Convene:** EPA's Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) continues to work with the Office of Water

on the future of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and how to facilitate input from local officials as deliberations about expansion of the program continue. In connection with these efforts, OIR is collaborating with OW in outreach to mayors and other local officials to encourage their participation in the 2016 Urban Waters National Training Workshop scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Arlington, VA. OIR Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon

**Wednesday – Friday, July 27 – 29, 2016 - The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC):** The Local Government Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting of the full committee in Washington D.C., from July 27-29, 2016. The meeting will include a majority of the 17 new LGAC members, who will receive formal invitations to join the Committee from Administrator McCarthy next week. A draft agenda will be circulated in the near future.

### **Recap of Recent Congressional Hearings:**

**House Natural Resources:** On July 12<sup>th</sup> the Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing titled "Changing Demands and Water Supply Uncertainty in California." Witnesses included Ara Azhderian, water policy administrator for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Los Banos, Calif.; Bob Borck, skipper of the F/V Belle J II, Eureka, Calif.; Jeffrey Sutton, general manager of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Willows, Calif.; and David Murillo, Mid-Pacific Regional director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Ara Azhderian highlighted the increase of water use for environmental purposes in his testimony. He said that farmers and municipal water users adapted to the increasing regulatory demands but environmental management, the fastest growing segment of water demand, has no requirement for accountability. Environmental management has focused on adjusting water flows to conserve fish species. Mr. Azhderian said that this "single species approach imposed by FWS [Fish and Wildlife Services] and NMFS [National Marine Fisheries Service] ignores the consistent and pervasive scientific advice that multiple stressors are at work, therefore comprehensive solutions are necessary." In his recommendations, Mr. Azhderian emphasized the need for transparency and collaboration, to understand cause and effect, to experiment and search for comprehensive solutions, and to address needs in the near term. Mr. Bob Borck testified that California's salmon fishery is in trouble due to manmade changes to California's rivers, streams, and the Bay Delta. State and federal fish agencies have told Mr. Borck that they have lost between 95% and 98% of the Central Valley salmon during the last two drought years. He cited a lack of river flows to the sea in the spring, which are needed to deliver baby salmon to the ocean. Mr. Borck shared that the fish are the cornerstone of 23,000 jobs in California. He also testified that the West Coast salmon fleet supports the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as federal protections under the ESA benefit salmon that the fleet relies on. Mr. Jeffrey Sutton testified on behalf of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA). The TCCA diverts water from the Sacramento River through the recently constructed Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project. This project was created for reliable diversions of irrigation while also providing for unimpeded fish passage to prime spawning habitat on the upper Sacramento River. Mr. Sutton shared that in 2014 and 2015, all 17 water districts and 150,000 acres of farmland within the TCCA received an allocation of zero percent pursuant to their Central Valley Project water contracts. Mr. Sutton talked about the negative impacts of the historic lack of water supply throughout the CVP service area. He highlighted legislative mandates and regulatory actions as contributing to the lack of water. In particular, he spoke about the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). CVPIA required a large amount of water to be utilized for fishery purposes. Mr. Sutton testified that despite conditions for fish that have never been better, the populations continue to decline. Mr. Sutton emphasized the need for a more coordinated, science driven and outcome based approach. Mr. David Murillo testified on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation. He provided an update on conditions and on the temperature and flow considerations. In response to criticism of the CVP, Mr. Murillo said that Reclamation must operate the CVP to balance demands from the California State Water Resources Control Board, biological opinions, and federal Endangered Species Acts. Mr. Murillo then shared information about the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan (SRTMP). The SRTMP recommends an approach to maintain a 56 degrees daily average through the end of September. The SRTMP includes frequent monitoring activities

and check-in points. For more information

see: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=400896>

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:** On July 12<sup>th</sup> the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a markup of several pieces of legislation including S. 2902, the "Western Water Supply and Planning Enhancement Act," and S. 2412, the "Tule Lake National Historic Site Establishment Act." S. 2902 provides for long-term water supplies, optimal use of existing water supply infrastructure, and protection of existing water rights. Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (AK) shared that **Senator Jeff Flake (AZ)** dropped a provision on Lake Mead with which California and Colorado had expressed concern. The amendment had to do with the direction to the Department of the Interior in regards to storage of water behind Lake Mead. S. 2902 was approved by a vote of 12-10.

S. 2412 establishes the Tule Lake National Historic Site in California. S. 2412 was approved by voice vote. For more information see: <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=7909CEFD-1383-4D12-91A2-4F51F9ACBEAE>